

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Spouse briefing

A deployed spouses briefing is at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. March 6 at the Community Center in Area One. The briefing discusses programs available to spouses during deployments. For more information, call Ext. 4303. These times are updated from last week.

Traffic detours

Traffic in Area One will be detoured from Saturday through Feb. 24. All traffic will enter through the Area One gate and exit through the medical gate next to the clinic. Motorists are encouraged to reduce speed and observe posted signs during. For more information, call Giancarlo Biasutti at Ext 5759.

Internet safety

Aviano High School hosts a "Technology and Your Teen" class at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the AHS library. The class is the first in a "Need to Know" informational series and discusses how to protect home computers from viruses, Internet safety with teenagers and filtering techniques. Parents can reserve a class spot with Cheryl Owen at Ext. 5919 or cheryl.owen@eu.dodea.edu.

By Senior Airman
Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

On her way to the 2006 Winter Olympics, the First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush, visited Aviano Friday.

As the head of the official U.S. delegation to the Turin games, Mrs. Bush traveled to Italy with her daughter, Barbara, and five former Olympic medalists.

"These athletes make America proud and this year U.S. Olympic athletes, as the world watches for the next two weeks, will once again bring pride and honor to our nation," said Mrs. Bush. "But I want you to know that the men and women of our armed forces bring the greatest pride and honor to our country."

During her visit, Mrs. Bush took time to speak directly with Air Force and Army members who recently arrived home from deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We see this visit as a huge sign of support for our efforts and there's nothing like our leaders coming out



First Lady Laura Bush and the official U.S. Olympic delegation stopped here Feb. 10 to speak to the Aviano community. Mrs. Bush also talked with Air Force and Army members who recently returned from deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq.

to embrace the soldiers," said Army Sergeant Major Randy Manns, Southern European Task Force, Vicenza Italy. Sergeant Manns and his unit returned from an 11-month deployment to Afghanistan Jan. 6.

Mrs. Bush also spoke to the troops and their families about how the mission of today's military has changed since her last visit to Aviano.

"I was here at Aviano in July 2001 when the mission

was totally different, before September 11. Little did we know then what was to happen. Since then, of course, the world has changed. Throughout the challenges of the last four years, you've served with courage and distinction. Defending America's freedom is the core mission of our military and they have carried out that mission," she said.

The First Lady's visit to Aviano also served as a reminder of the loyalty and

See Visit, Page 8

Restricted reporting: Sexual assault response coordinators are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call Ext. 7272 for help.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	905.8	632
	-63.2	-13

Information current as of Thursday.



Healthy smiles

During National Children's Dental Health Month, the 31st Dental Squadron teaches students the importance of a healthy smile.

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Time travel

History buffs can go back to Roman times by exploring the ruins and museums dotting the ancient port city of Aquileia.

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31st Fighter Wing

Commander's Corner

By Brig. Gen. Robert Yates
31st Fighter Wing commander

World's Finest warriors - before I go into upcoming events, I need to say "Bravo" for making the First Lady's visit an overwhelming success!

As you all know Mrs. Bush and members of the official Olympics delegation visited Aviano Feb. 10 and, believe me, they were impressed, as was I, with the first-class service you all provided them. You all did an outstanding job preparing Hangar One, providing security and parking control and doing whatever it took to make sure our very distinguished visitors received World's Finest treatment.

Another success story this week was the Spouse it Up "Let's Make a Deal" competition at the base theater Wednesday. The monthly Spouse it Up events are always a huge success and this one was no different. Costumes were worn, games were played, prizes were won - everyone had a great time!

Barb said she was very impressed with the time and effort people put into their costumes. One of the participants was even wearing an "I Love Monty Hall" t-shirt - for those of us who watched the original game show, we remember what a great

host he was. March's event will have a St. Patrick's Day theme; we will provide more details soon!

If you've driven past the new south ramp on the flightline you will notice a number of heavy aircraft parked there. In addition to C-17s and KC-135s, we have a couple of NATO E-3 Sentry aircraft. The addition of this ramp expands our capabilities to support large aircraft and airlift Army troops in support of joint missions - another reason why Aviano is vital to NATO airpower.

Finally, I want to take a moment to encourage everyone to get their game faces on next week for the upcoming exercise. We've spent a lot of time preparing for this exercise and I know we're ready to show our evaluators what we're made of. It will be hectic around the World's Finest ranch next week, but we've practiced and we're ready for the challenge. Thanks to each of you for your hard work up to this point - let's sprint to the finish line and show the inspectors we know what we're doing - we do!

This weekend, get rested up and let's hit the ground runnin' next week!



Dear Aviano community,

On Feb. 1 we successfully stocked and opened the food pantry. Because of your generosity, we will be able to care for our families in their time of need. Thank you very much to the many of you that gave both in time volunteering and in food. God bless you all, and again, thank you!

- Barb Yates

Aviano Airman of the Week

Name: Staff Sgt. Kristine Baldrey
Unit: 31st Communications Squadron
Job: Satellite and wideband communications journeyman
Hometown: Euclid, Ohio
Family: Her mom and dad both served in the Navy and her brother is a police officer in the Navy reserves.
Hobbies: Traveling, cooking, sports and wine tasting
Why joined: After an unsuccessful attempt at college, she joined the military to gain work experience, develop discipline and travel the world.



Uniform board releases changes, updates

The 97th Air Force Uniform Board released its newest results for proper uniform wear.

The following changes are effective immediately:

- The blue nametag can be worn with the Air Force informal uniforms. The member's abbreviated rank and name will be on one line. This uniform is worn by recruiters, honor guard, enlisted aides, chaplains, chaplain assistants, world-class athletes, fitness center and health and wellness center staffs.

- Cummerbund pleats will face up on men and women.

- If a temporary medical condition, such as chemotherapy, results in baldness, commanders will authorize the approved American Cancer Society cap, wigs or baldness while in uniform.

- Bracelet size is reduced to one-half inch. Bracelets that support a cause, philosophy, individual or group are not authorized. Traditional POW/MIA bracelets are still permitted. Gemstone and tennis bracelets are only authorized while wearing the mess dress.

- Rings will be worn at the base of the finger and will not be worn on the thumb. Wedding sets count as one ring.

- Eyeglasses will not be worn around the neck, on top or back of the head or hanging on the uniform.

- Epoxy blue nametag is optional on the blue shirt.

- Wear of the firefighter duty badge is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3E7X1 duty Air Force specialty code.

- Wear of the security forces duty badge and beret is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3PXXX duty AFSC position and it is also their primary AFSC.

- The Air Force Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded. Previously earned medals are still permitted.

- Mandatory wear of the physical training uniform is set for Oct. 1.

- Cell phones, pagers and personal digital assistants must be solid or covered in black, silver, dark blue or gray and must be conservative. They may be clipped to the left side of the waistband

or purse or carried in left hand. Only one may be worn on the uniform belt. Members will not walk in uniform while using phones, radios or hands-free headsets unless required in performing official duties using a government-issued device.

- When not deployed, desert combat uniforms may not be worn unless en route to the basic combat convoy course. "Deployed" for this purpose includes members traveling en route to/from rest and recuperative leave from the Central Command area of responsibility, as outlined in policy announced in mid-2005.

This session of the uniform board included a special panel specifically chartered to make recommendations for uniform standards affecting female Airmen. Several changes include:

- Scrunchies are prohibited.

- Hairpins and bands must match hair color.

- Hair color, frosting and highlights will not be faddish and will match natural hair colors.

- No shaved head or flat

top hairstyles for women.

- Synthetic hair can be worn as long as it meets safety and mission requirements.

- Braids, micro-braids and cornrows are authorized.

- Nail polish will not contrast with complexion or detract from the uniform. Nor is polish of extreme color, such as purple, gold, black, blue or any fluorescent color, authorized. Nail polish will also be limited to one color. French manicures are allowed, but fingernail length in all instances will not exceed one-quarter inch beyond the fingertip.

- In addition to clutch-style purses, purses with no more than two straps are authorized with mess dress.

- Earrings will be small spherical, conservative diamond, gold, white pearl or silver with any uniform combination and must be worn as a set. For those with multiple ear piercings, only one set of earrings will be worn in the lower earlobe and will also conform to these earring wear standards when performing duty in civilian clothes. (*Courtesy Air Force Print News*)

Money matter\$: Visit Tom Snyder at the Family Support Center to learn how to pay off debt. Call Ext. 5656 to make an appointment.

Aviano Airmen receive non-judicial punishment

*Courtesy 31st Fighter Wing
Legal Office*

31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

A senior airman was charged under Article 92 for violation of a lawful order. For this misconduct, the Airman received 20 days extra duty, reduction to E-3 and a reprimand.

A senior airman was charged under Article 111 for drunk driving. For this misconduct, the Airman received 30 days extra duty, 30 days restriction to base, reduction to E-3, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$773 pay for two months.

31st Communications Squadron

A senior airman was charged under Article 111 for drunk driving. For this misconduct, the Airman received 30 days correctional custody, reduction to E-2 and a reprimand.

31st Logistics Readiness Squadron

A senior airman was charged under Article 134 for indecent assault. For this misconduct, the Airman received 30 day correctional custody, suspended reduction

to E-3 and a reprimand.

31st Medical Support Squadron

A senior airman was charged under Article 86 for failure to go and Article 134 for drunkenness and incapacitation during duty performance. For this misconduct, the Airman received 30 days extra duty, reduction to E-3, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$967 pay for one month.

31st Maintenance Squadron

A senior airman was charged under Article 128 for assault and battery and Article 134 for communicating a threat. For this misconduct, the Airman received 45 days extra duty, suspended reduction to E-3, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$820 pay for two months.

31st Security Forces Squadron

An airman first class was charged under Article 134 for misbehavior of a sentinel. For this misconduct, the Airman received a suspended reduction to E-2, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$323 pay for one month.

724th Air Mobility Squadron

A senior airman was charged under Article 128 for simple assault. For this

misconduct, the Airman received 45 days extra duty, suspended reduction to E-3, a reprimand and forfeiture of \$150 pay for two months.

Punishment under Article 15, otherwise known as non-judicial punishment, is action by a service member's commander in response to suspected violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The amount of punishment a commander can impose is subject to limitations based on the commander's rank and the member's rank. In general, punishments are limited to restrictions, forfeitures of pay, reductions in grade, extra duties and reprimands.

Servicemembers have the option to turn down an Article 15 and demand trial by court martial.

Airmen helping Airmen

Air Force Assistance Fund campaign starts Feb. 27

By Tech. Sgt.

Jerome Baysmore

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Airmen gave more than \$6.7 million to last year's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign.

This year, the campaign is looking to lobby even more support during the Feb. 27 to April 7 season.

"It's an umbrella Air Force charity," said Lt. Col. Lester Weilacher, 31st Comptroller Squadron commander and AFAF coordinator. "It encompasses four main beneficiaries: Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Village, Air Force Enlisted Village and the LeMay Foundation."

"We're getting a 3.1 percent pay raise; share a little bit of that," he added.

The four Air Force-related charities benefit today's total force: Active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Airmen, surviving spouses and families.

"It's about helping our own," said Capt. Eric Cuebas, 31st CPTS financial services officer and AFAF co-coordinator. "The easiest way to contribute is through payroll allotment. We do take cash or checks, but it would make it a lot easier through allotment."

For more information on the AFAF, visit <http://afassistancefund.org>.

Air Force Assistance Fund POCs

31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron	Tech Sgt. Steven Cundiff	Ext. 5532
31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron	Master Sgt. Alec Gonzalez	Ext. 7732
31st Civil Engineer Squadron	Capt. Jeff Lin	Ext. 5396
31st Communications Squadron	2nd Lt. Scott Anderson	Ext. 4219
31st Comptroller Squadron	Tech. Sgt. James Young	Ext. 7584
31st Contracting Squadron	Capt. Melinda Reeder	Ext. 8558
	Airman 1st Class Danielle Torrence	Ext. 7333
31st Dental Squadron	Airman 1st Class Crystal Kemery	Ext. 5060
31st Fighter Wing	Capt. Sharon Nickleberry	Ext. 4704
31st Logistics Readiness Squadron	Maj. Michael Day	Ext. 7405
31st Maintenance Operations Squadron	Tech. Sgt. Barry Ryan	Ext. 8653
31st Maintenance Squadron	Capt. Julia Renalds	Ext. 7900
31st Medical Group	Tech Sgt. Sarah Benton	Ext. 5275
31st Medical Operations Squadron	Capt. Krisandra Smith	Ext. 5866
31st Medical Support Squadron	Airman 1st Class Daneen Marriott	Ext. 5214
31st Mission Support Squadron	1st Lt. Julia Dockery	Ext. 4041
	2nd Lt. Alice Bartek	Ext. 8121
31st Operations Support Squadron	Senior Master Sgt. Gil Corpuz	Ext. 7635
	Master Sgt. Michael Warren	Ext. 7099
31st Security Forces Squadron	Senior Master Sgt. Edward Coufal	Ext. 7474
31st Services Squadron	1st Lt. Chelsea Baca-Hodroff	Ext. 1701
510th Fighter Squadron	Capt. Kip Johnson	Ext. 8801
555th Fighter Squadron	1st Lt. Matthew Kuperus	Ext. 7680
603rd Air Control Squadron	Capt. Kelly Larson	Ext. 5143
724th Air Mobility Squadron	Staff Sgt. William Reis	Ext. 4467
Det. 17	Tech Sgt. Robert Tipton	Ext. 8607
Det. 8 Air Force News	Senior Master Sgt. Michael Land	Ext. 4878
Det. 531 Air Force Office of Special Investigations	Special Agent Kostadink Uncapher	Ext. 7642

Where's lunch? The Mensa is closed Monday due to an Italian day of rest. Lunch will be served at the La Bella Vista Club from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Heavy aircraft

E-3 Sentrys and other heavy aircraft are parked on the new south ramp. The new ramp increases Aviano's capability to park additional heavy aircraft. The ramp was completed in December 2005 and the first aircraft was parked in January.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

New command

Col. Kimberly Toney, 31st Mission Support Group commander, hands the 31st Services Squadron guidon to Maj. David Kretz. Major Kretz took command of the services squadron during an assumption of command ceremony Feb. 8.

Gamers battle with PCs

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

It may not be real war, but it sure can feel like it.

PC Wars is an all-night free gaming competition held monthly at the community center.

Gamers link their personal computers to a server and play the same game or other games in a group. Participants vote on the games to be played.

"It's nice if everyone brought their own game already installed, but if they don't, we can help them install it," said Airman 1st Class Jienelle Arevalo, 31st Fighter Wing paralegal and PC Wars coordinator. "We also troubleshoot and build computers, so if anyone has any problems, we can help them."

The group has several games players can choose from and

is open to suggestions. Some of the games are first person shooter, other are strategy such as Warcraft III.

"We would really like [gamers] to come out, meet people with the same interests, relax and have fun," Airman Arevalo said.

PC Wars also has free games players can download from its Web site and gamers can borrow cables and adaptors.

Besides gaming, PC Wars also has competitions for best looking computer and participants can win door prizes.

"People like to show off their computers with lights and big fans," Airman Arevalo said. "We also have prizes like games, air dusters and wireless cards."

The next PC Wars is at 7 p.m. Saturday in the community center. To see monthly schedules and vote for games, visit www.Avianopcwars.com.

Visit, from page 1

support displayed by Americans back home for military members overseas.

Mrs. Bush said she sees how strongly Americans support the troops in her travels around the country. "Everywhere I go I see 'America supports our troops' signs. There is more support for our military now than there has been in a long time. One reason is the people see the military more and they see what they're doing day-to-day and what a sacrifice and a danger it is [for them]."

Touching on the fact that servicemembers are serving all over the world, Mrs. Bush encouraged today's military to put the knowledge and experience they gain from other cultures to good use such as in the Troops to Teachers program.

"I know our military men and women serve in other cultures and they have so much to teach students," she said. "They've seen the world and they have the characteristics that we want our children to have: self-control, discipline, duty, honor and hard work. I would hope they would consider teaching as another career."

After the First Lady's speech, Mrs. Bush, her daughter and the Olympic delegation further expressed their support and gratitude toward the military by posing for pictures, talking with the crowd and stopping for an interview.

"It was nice for her to thank the troops for what we do in person," said Staff Sgt. Amanda Robles, 31st Maintenance Group communication administration NCO in charge. "Her visit really touched the troops who recently arrived back from deployments. You could see that many were very emotional."

Cancellation: The cocktail demonstration and tasting at the base library scheduled for 5 p.m. Feb. 24 has been cancelled.

Aviano Unit Tax Advisors

- **31st Aerospace Medical Squadron:** Master Sgt. Robert Ramsey Ext. 5219
- **31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron:** Staff Sgt. Jason Brunson Ext. 8539, Senior Airman Sheila Fish Ext. 8159, Staff Sgt. Jarman Gilmore Ext. 8578, Airman 1st Class Anthony Hawkins Ext. 8577, Airman 1st Class Jess Roach Ext. 8159, Staff Sgt. Naomi Woolford-Drakes Ext. 4335
- **31st Fighter Wing:** Tech. Sgt. Rosalyn Anderson Ext. 7399, Tech. Sgt. Marcia Caston Ext. 7843, Jim Ketchum Ext. 7840
- **31st Civil Engineer Squadron:** Master Sgt. Kirk Anderson Ext. 7530, Master Sgt. Don Knight Ext. 5237, Tech. Sgt. Chad Moore Ext. 5702, Staff Sgt. Roderick Moore Ext. 5795
- **31st Contracting Squadron:** Capt. Melinda Reeder Ext. 8032
- **31st Comptroller Squadron:** Airman 1st Class Serena Cardenas Ext. 7107, Airman 1st Class Tyler Wallace Ext. 8692
- **31st Communications Squadron:** Airman 1st Class James Headrick Ext. 7142, 2nd Lt. Andrea Beltran Ext. 7329
- **31st Dental Squadron:** Master Sgt. Courtney Graham Ext. 5476, Capt. Nathan Krivitzky Ext. 5060
- **31st Logistics Readiness Squadron:** Senior Airman Danielle Garzona Ext. 8888, Tech. Sgt. Jesse Maki Ext. 7488, Staff Sgt. Kelly Mayberry Ext. 8466, Staff Sgt. Soumaly Souvanh Ext. 7062, Staff Sgt. Brandi Wheeler Ext. 7382, Staff Sgt. Scott Young Ext. 7404
- **31st Medical Operations Squadron:** Capt. Beverly Clark Ext. 5419, Capt. Patti Jo DeMotts Ext. 5338, Staff Sgt. Amber Humselshim Ext. 5888, Tech. Sgt. Richard Tangen Ext. 5209

- **31st Medical Support Squadron:** Capt. Patrick Misnick Ext. 5357, Master Sgt. Virginia Wimmer Ext. 5519
- **31st Maintenance Operations Squadron:** Staff Sgt. James Castillo Ext. 8763, Tech. Sgt. Eric Markel Ext. 8684, Master Sgt. Mitchell Rodgers Ext. 8620
- **31st Mission Support Squadron:** Capt. Erin Hancock Ext. 8100, Tech. Sgt. Cresencio Kerby Ext. 7496
- **31st Maintenance Squadron:** Staff Sgt. Eva Graney Ext. 7511, Staff Sgt. Eric Hill Ext. 8642, Master Sgt. Mark Kanitz Ext. 7305, Tech. Sgt. Paul Kelsey Ext. 8644, Senior Airman Jose Marquez-Riveria Ext. 4102, Staff Sgt. David McCauley Ext. 7492, Staff Sgt. Amanda Mowrey Ext. 7544, Staff Sgt. Ericka Rollins Ext. 4664
- **31st Operations Support Squadron:** Airman 1st Class Edward Nagao Ext. 4428
- **31st Security Forces Squadron:** Airman 1st Class Raquel Figueroa Ext. 4858, Harvey Bullock Ext. 7155
- **31st Services Squadron:** Staff Sgt. Kendall Mills Ext. 4040
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- **724th Air Mobility Squadron:** Master Sgt. Kim Karolchyk Ext. 4411, Rebecca Miller Ext. 8242, Darius Sylvester Ext. 7771

Aviano children learn importance of healthy smiles

**By Senior Airman
Colleen Wronek**

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

February is National Children's Dental Health Month, and the 31st Dental Squadron visited Aviano school children to teach the importance of good oral hygiene.

The dental squadron promoted the benefits of good oral health through classroom presentations, dental clinic tours and educational displays.

"A child's smile is important. Parents can make the difference in a child's dental health by promoting good oral hygiene and teaching them the importance of taking care of their teeth," said Staff Sgt. Miriam Larson, 31st Dental Squadron dental technician. "A lot of people have a parent or grandparent who wears some kind of denture or have missing teeth. This can be prevented in children with proper dental care and education."

There are many ways to help children maintain good oral health, said Capt. (Dr.) Corbet Ellison, 31st DS pediatric dentist. "The Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that a child's first dental visit should be scheduled prior to two years of age," he said. "Infants should have their



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Capt. (Dr.) Corbet Ellison, 31st Dental Squadron pediatric dentist, speaks to an Aviano kindergarten class about good oral hygiene.

mouths cleaned with a damp washcloth to remove plaque, and tooth brushing should begin as soon as the first tooth erupts. Also, infants should not be allowed a baby bottle filled with formula, milk, juice or sweet liquids during nap

or bed time. The sugar in these products can cause baby bottle tooth decay that can destroy the infant's primary teeth."

The dental squadron recommended children brush twice a day - once after breakfast and once before bedtime - and should be supervised until they are eight years old. "A balanced diet is important to a child's dental health as well. The number of high sugar snacks should be minimized," Dr. Ellison said. "The amount of fluoride a child receives is important in maintaining good teeth. Fluoride helps strengthen teeth and decrease the amount of tooth decay."

Dr. Ellison said the water supply is not fluoridated here, but the dental clinic offers in-office fluoride supplements if a need is determined. "Maintaining a great smile for a lifetime can be easily accomplished with good oral hygiene at home and with regular care from the dentist," he said.

The dental squadron will also brief Aviano middle school students on tobacco cessation and tongue piercing risks on Thursday and Feb. 28. They will also brief good oral hygiene at the flight line child development center from 9 to 10 a.m. Feb. 24 and 28. For more information on dental health or to schedule an appointment, call Ext. 5060.



A'yhana Davis shows her classmates how to properly brush teeth during a National Children's Dental Health month presentation at Aviano Elementary School.



Dr. Ellison shows a 'dirty' mouth to girls scout troop members during a tour of the dental squadron. Using the mouth model he explained the consequences of poor oral hygiene to the scouts.



Girl scouts feel the pressure of a dental cleaning tool during a tour of the dental clinic. The 31st Dental Squadron gave tours and visited the schools as part of National Children's Dental Health Month.

Chew on this

Long ago, as people got older, their teeth would rot away and it was very painful. To get rid of toothaches, people had their teeth pulled out. People soon learned that cleaning their teeth was important, but they still didn't have toothpaste. So they used to clean their teeth with ground-up chalk or charcoal, lemon juice, ashes or a mixture of tobacco and honey. Information provided from www.kidshealth.org and www.ada.org.



Nicholas Ward holds a model of a 'clean' mouth during a dental squadron visit to Aviano's kindergarten class. The 31st Dental Squadron taught Aviano school children the importance of good oral hygiene for National Children's Dental Health Month.

Mardi Gras

Aviano's Airman Advisory Council is hosting a Mardi Gras all-nighter from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. today in the La Bella Vista Club. The colors for the night are green, purple and gold and there is a costume contest. For more information, call Ext. 6833.

USAFE Idol

Aviano singers are competing for USAFE Idol at 7 p.m. Feb. 25 in the base theater. Seating is limited and doors open at 6:30 p.m. The first place winner receives \$350 and will advance to the USAFE-level competition April 17-22 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. For more information, call Ext. 5479 or visit www.usafesvsmarketing.org/idol.htm.

31st MDG closed

The 31st Medical Group is closed Monday. Extended care hours are in the Area One Family Practice Clinic from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. People needing an appointment during extended care hours

should call 0434-30-5000. People with an emergency should go to Pordenone or the closest emergency room. The Sacile hospital does not offer emergency services and one of the main roads to the hospital is closed. For life-threatening emergencies, call 118. People who have a question may call the Health Care Information line toll free at 800-877-660. All clinics will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

AFSA meeting

The Air Force Sergeants Association hosts a membership meeting at 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Aviano Professional Development Center in Bldg. 220 in Area Two. For more information, call Bernard Benjamin at Ext. 7567.

Scholarships

The Defense Commissary Agency and the Fisher House Foundation are accepting scholarship applications through Wednesday. Authorized applicants include unmarried children under age 21 of active duty, Guard, Reserve and military

retiree families. Applicants may range in age up to 23 years if they are presently enrolled. Application forms are available at the commissary and on the Internet at www.militaryscholar.org.

Interviewing ease

Learn the basics of successful job interviewing at Aviano's Family Support Center interviewing class from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 24. The class covers interview techniques such as what to wear, what to bring and how to answer illegal questions. Call Ext. 5658 or 5407 to sign up.

Awards banquet

The 31st Fighter Wing's annual awards banquet is at 6 p.m. March 3 in the La Bella Vista Club. This year's theme is "Honoring Aviano's Finest" and people interested in attending should contact their unit first sergeants. The uniform for military is mess dress or semi-formal and civilian dress is formal or semi-formal. The cost is \$16.50 for club members and \$18.50 for non-club members. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Michael Land at Ext. 8295.

Spouse scholarships

The National Military Family Association is accepting applications for Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships. Any uniformed service spouse—active duty, retired, National Guard, Reserve, or survivor—studying toward professional certification or attending post-secondary or graduate school may apply.

Applications are online at www.nmfa.org/scholarships2006 and will only be accepted online. The deadline to apply is April 15.

Awards dinner

The Maintenance Professional of the Year awards banquet is at 6 p.m. March 18 at Hangar One. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 for senior non-com-

missioned officers, \$20 for NCOs and \$18 for Airmen. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Frey at Ext. 8562.

Embry-Riddle

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is registering students for the AMNT-260 Electrical Systems class. The condensed class is from Monday to March 2.

Students completing Embry-Riddle's six aircraft maintenance courses can get an airframe and powerplant license, an associate's degree in aircraft maintenance and a certificate in aviation maintenance technology. For more information, call Ext. 5140.

Munitions

The Munitions Storage Area (Area G) is closed through March 19 for an exercise and an inventory. During this time, only emergencies will be supported. For more information, call Ext. 8774.

Survey

Random customer feedback surveys have been mailed to Aviano members to rate the quality of 31st Services Squadron programs. People are encouraged to fill out the surveys and return them.

IG vacancy

The 31st Fighter Wing Inspector General's office seeks a senior non-commissioned offer to fill the superintendent vacancy. Application packages are due to the 31st FW IG office by March 3. For more information, call Ext. 5662.

Combat Education

University of Maryland University College distance education and in-class term four schedule is now available. A financial aid advisor will also visit the school March 8 for an education fair. For more information, visit the education center, call Ext. 5365 or visit www.ed.umuc.edu.

Reel Times

Today, 5 p.m. - "In the Mix" Rated PG-13 - When a man accidentally saves a mob boss's life, his reward is a job protecting the don's daughter. Complications arise when the two begin to fall in love. Starring: Usher Raymond, Emmanuelle Chriqui

Today, 8 p.m. - "Casanova" Rated R - When Giacomo Casanova met Francesca Bruni, he met his romantic match. She is the only woman ever to refuse his charms and he has to prove he is the one man worthy of her romantic ideals. Starring: Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "Syriana" Rated R - A 21-year CIA veteran who spent his career investigating terrorists watches as signs are ignored and an oil executive and his wife are faced with a family tragedy. Starring: George Clooney, Matt Damon

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Ice Harvest" Rated R - During Christmas eve, an attorney and his unsavory associate successfully embezzle \$2 million from a Kansas City boss. Starring: John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "Casanova" Rated R

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Carnevale

Almost every Italian city has at least one day or weekend dedicated to Carnevale celebration.

Carnevale in **Venice** is famous for its lavish festivals and this year runs through Feb. 24. More is offered on the weekends than weekdays, but weekends are also more crowded. Entertainment includes costume parades, fireworks, torchlight boat regattas, live music, fire eaters and jugglers. Since the Venice area is crowded during Carnevale, be careful of pickpockets.

Other Carnevale locations include **Viareggio**, located north of Pisa, which is famous for its 1920 art nouveau style architecture.

Aviano and **Porcia** celebrate Carnevale Sunday and **Sacile** has a celebration Feb. 25. **Muggia**, near Trieste, celebrates Feb. 26.

For more information, call Ext. 7555.

Olympic travel

U.S. citizens are encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance, be aware of their surroundings and take the appropriate steps to heighten their personal security at the Winter Olympics in Torino. People are reminded to check for travel advisories. For more information, visit <http://www.olympics2006.state.gov/> or <http://usembassy.state.gov/>.

VISIT ANCIENT ROMAN RUINS IN AQUILEIA

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Once the fourth most important city in Italy, the ancient city of Aquileia now lies in ruins.

For most history lovers, the town is like walking through an archaeological museum.

When first entering town, visitors see a row of ancient Roman columns. At the stop light before the columns, turn left and follow the signs to a free parking area or park on the side of the road. The town is very spacious and there are plenty of places to park. There is also parking available in the center of town, but it isn't free.

Near the free parking is the excavated harbor called Il Porto Fluviale. Next to the harbor is a path leading up to the basilica.

On the path are signs telling the harbor's story in English. The harbor is the most complete excavated ruins in Aquileia.

The path leads to the back of the basilica of Santa Maria Assunta. The basilica's mosaic floor tiles were recently uncovered and visitors must walk on a raised Plexiglas platform.

The basilica has two crypts. For €2 people can visit them both. Although plain, the mosaics tell the stories of hunters and animals. The first crypt is near the main entrance and contains more excavated mosaics.

The second crypt contains faded, but colorful, 11th and 12th century frescoes depicting the life and death of Jesus and the city's saint. When visiting both crypts, informative English maps are provided.

Near the basilica are the ruins of an old Roman house. The only thing that remains of the house is the floors, which are also covered in mosaic tiles. An informative sign near the site also tells visitors about Roman life.

For the more morbid visitor, Aquileia has an ancient necropolis on the southwestern side of town. Follow the signs to the Sepolcreto. The graveyard is very small and only five families are buried there.

The town also has an archaeological mu-



Photo by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Aquileia's Roman legacy can be seen everywhere in the small town. Visitors can see these Roman columns when entering the town.

seum, an early Christian museum and camp grounds.

Visitors who need to rest after exploring the sites can enjoy regional cuisine and wine or souvenir shopping. A good souvenir shop is next to the basilica.

Aquileia is an hour and a half from Aviano. Take the autostrada and head towards Trieste. When exiting the autostrada, follow the signs to Aquileia. When there are no signs pointing to Aquileia, follow the signs to Trieste.

More information on Aquileia can be found at <http://www.aquileia.it/> or <http://www.aquileia.net/>. These sites are in English and have maps and more history on the ancient port city.

Passport: Having a tourist passport is the safest way to travel. For more travel information, visit <http://travel.state.gov/>.



Photo by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

During **Carnevale**, locals wear colorful masks sold in many Venice stores.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday – Guided Munich
- Saturday – Guided Verona
- Monday – Carnevale in Venice
- Feb. 24-26 – Budapest
- Feb. 25 – Carnevale in Venice
- March 4 – Guided Florence
- March 4 – Guided Verona

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination

as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly for the trip. ITT staff also recommends wearing comfortable shoes because almost all tours involve walking.

Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.



Photo by Senior Airman Sherrie Gates

The Aviano Grifoni play the Ljubljana Silverhawks at the 2004 season opener at the Dragon Fitness Center football field.

Grifoni football tackles competition

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

The professional football season may be over for the year, but fans can experience the fun of the game first-hand with the Grifoni American football team.

"The team, made up of military members, dependents and local nationals, plays from May to June with playoffs in late June and early July," said Grifoni coach Jerome Baysmore.

Competing against teams from Italy, Slovenia and Austria, Aviano Grifoni players get the opportunity to explore Europe and make lasting friendships.

"Playing for the Grifoni team offers Aviano members a chance to see new countries, meet new friends and belong to a family that lasts a life time," said Grifoni tight-end Aaron McKeen.

Gaining in popularity since the team was put together six years ago, the Grifoni originally played in Belluno, but moved to Aviano to make the com-

mute shorter for American players.

"American football has a lot of support that stems from NFL-Europe, TV and teams playing in other countries," Baysmore said. "The Grifoni have been the league champions for three years running and are the two-time Three Nations Cup title holders."

Although Grifoni football is gaining in popularity, the team is always on the lookout for more players.

"We are always looking for players because people are normally stationed here for two to four years, so the turnover rate is high," explained McKeen. "Our experienced players are the ones who keep this team rolling, bring in the new guys and step up to lead."

Since the team consists of many different kinds of people, anyone who's over 18 can try out for the team; even women.

"Any able-bodied individual who loves the game and is willing to dedicate his or herself to all of the things that go along with Grifoni football is eligible to play," said defensive back Edwin Jennings.

Players must register with the league and pur-

chase their own required protective equipment.

In addition to travel and friendships, the Grifoni team members play an important role in building relationships with the local community.

"A lot of people don't know that this team actually helps foster American and European relations through sport, because it gives us time to learn a little bit of each other's culture by visiting the other team's countries," explained Baysmore.

Team practices are held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and at 1 p.m. Saturdays in Area D and anyone is welcome to come out and play.

"Playing is another outlet for stress from the high ops tempo here and it also gives individuals a second chance at football glory," said assistant coach Joseph Larouche. "A great thing this team offers its players is another family. Even in the short time I've been with the team, I already feel apart of the Grifoni family. It's awesome."

For more information, e-mail Jerome Baysmore at avianogrifoni@yahoo.com or attend one of the practices.

Fly Bys

History tournament

An African-American History Month three on three basketball tournament is at 8 a.m. Saturday in the Dragon Fitness Center.

Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners are participating in a Volksmarch at 8 a.m. Sunday. The group leaves the Bar Municipio in Roveredo and heads to Pordenone. For more information, call Ext. 7692.

Fitness survey

The Area Two Fitness Center is expanding its workout area into the vacated Child Development Center building. The 31st Services Squadron needs input on what Aviano Airmen would like to see offered at the gym. The project also enables parents to have their children in the same workout area. There will be a children's play area in the cardio room only, for the parents' convenience. For more information or to complete the survey, log onto <http://www.31svs-aviano.com/>.

Project Cheer

The Project Cheer Racquetball Tournament is at 9 a.m. Feb. 25 in the Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, call Robby England at Ext. 7574.

Volleyball

The Dragon Fitness Center is accepting applications for volleyball players to participate in the 2006 Volleyball Championships at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, March 21-24. For more information, call Ext. 7574.

On the dance floor

Learn how to kick up your heels with dance lessons from the Community Center in Area One. Lessons are taught in Salsa, Merengue, Latin, Caribbean, Country, Swing and Ballroom dancing. The cost is \$20 per person for a two hour group lesson or \$40 for a one hour private lesson. Call Ext. 5479 for available dates and times, or to sign up.

Get 're-blued,' trust your people

By Maj. Dave Story

36th Logistics Readiness Squadron
commander

I recently had the privilege and honor of presiding over the retirement ceremony for a very successful 26-year veteran.

When it was time for the new retiree to speak, he took us back over his distinguished career, including many temporary duty assignments and the sacrifices of missed time with his family. He said we are all part of a volunteer force – the world's best Air Force – none of us had been drafted or forced to serve. He also reminded us of how the Air Force has progressed over the years.

I discovered I was suddenly "re-blued."

As I listened to his words, my mind raced to examples of how we've seemed to lose focus of certain principles over the years. I thought in particular about the level of trust we place in our people, be they Airmen, noncommissioned officers, senior NCOs or officers.

One of the many things that make our Air Force the best in the world is our ability to trust one another.

When we lose this ability, we dissolve the very glue that binds us together as a force. Destroying the trust we place in

our Airmen unknowingly questions their integrity and ultimately stifles any notions of innovation or excellence.

We must listen to the creeds that are repeated each month. We should remember that our supervisors must be trusted and entrusted to do their jobs.

When we reach the point of questioning their decision-making capabilities, we're sending a strong message. We don't trust you or need you.

We all want to be trusted and given the opportunity to do our jobs. This includes learning from our mistakes if necessary. If we're not given these chances, we'll never attain higher levels of passion, trust and pride.

So what does it mean to be "re-blued?"

In this case, it was a retiree's words that re-blued or inspired me to renew the trust I place in the Airmen I work with daily. He also inspired me to raise this issue with others. I hope they are reminded that without trust, we're just a bunch of individuals as opposed to a winning team.

Sadly, it all too often takes a retirement ceremony and the departing wisdom of a 26-year veteran to remind us how the military was and where we've strayed over the years.

Please trust your people. We'll reach greater heights and achieve bigger goals if we do.

Recognizing The World's Finest

• Congratulations to the following Airmen for their outstanding completion of their Career Development Course: **Senior Airman Rebecca Baker**, 31st Maintenance Squadron; **Senior Airman Ernesto Fernandez De Castro**, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Senior Airman Robert Rogers**, 31st MXS; **Airman 1st Class Stuart Borgen**, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron; **Airman 1st Class Ronald Schuerman**, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Airman Dustin Decker**, 31st AMXS; **Senior Airman Robert Vuchetich**, 31st MXS and **Senior Airman Andrew Zahn**, 31st MXS.

• Kudos to **Miss Tanya Baker** and **Miss Tina Dacanay** and all the staff at the base library for going above and beyond. Thanks from Sue and Ryan Meyers

• Congratulations to **Tameka Williams** for being elected as the President of the European district of Future Educators Association. Tameka, who is currently serving as President of the Aviano FEA chapter, ran for the office of European President while she was attending the FEA European Conference in Garmisch last week.

• Just wanted to express my thanks to **Staff Sgt. Rigoberto Vasquez** from the Pest Control Shop and **Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Thai** in 31st CES, for their professionalism and selflessness during our annual tour at Aviano. They took time away from their families to show us some of the area attractions and welcomed us with open arms to their shops.

- Master Sgt. Christopher Kot, 911th Civil Engineering Squadron

• Aviano salutes: **Airman 1st Class Sheila Fish**, 31st Maintenance Group 2005 Airman of the Year; **Staff Sgt. Amanda Johnson**, 31st MXG 2005 NCO of the Year; **Master Sgt. Steven Loy**, 31st MXG 2005 Senior NCO of the Year; **Capt. Timothy Fuhrman**, 31st MXG 2005 CGO of the Year; **Master Sgt. Jeff Jacobson**, 31st MXG 2005 First Sergeant of the Year; **Mrs. Christina Corley**, Civilian of the Year Category I; **Mr. Ronald Duerr**, Civilian of the Year Category II and **Mr. Tiberio Mazzega**, Wage Grade Civilian of the Year



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send congratulatory messages to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.